

**CONCLUSION**

For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request a favorable reconsideration of the application, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,  
MERIAL LTD.  
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: /Deborah L. Lu/  
Judy Jarcecki-Black, Ph.D.  
Reg. No. 44,170  
Tel. No. (678) 638-3805  
Fax No. (678) 638-3350

Thomas J. Kowalski  
Reg. No. 32,147  
Deborah L. Lu, Ph.D.  
Reg. No. 50,940  
Tel. No. (212) 588-0800  
Fax No. (212) 588-0500